

Abstract

Method and Device for Applying Pressure Waves to the Body of an Organism

A method and device are described for applying extracorporeally generated pressure waves, specifically acoustic shock waves, to the body of an organism. The effect of the shock waves in the impacted target area of the body is measured by extracorporeally disposed detectors which record the acoustic signals, the acoustic signals being generated within the tissue by the cavitation bubbles caused by the shock waves. The measured cavitation effect may be utilized to control and adjust the dosage of shock waves. The use of focused detectors allows for spatial scanning of the cavitation effect – with the result that the focus of the shock waves may be controlled, the tissue structure may be scanned, and the pressure field of the shock waves may be mapped.

217/177